

Week Commencing 13th January 2003

Free Church A have started the new year in Division 2 as they were in the old - still unbeaten all season. This week they cruised over RNA D 8-2 led by maximums in singles and doubles from Hugh Matthews and Dave Daniels and a single from John Taylor. Richard Lancucki and Steve Kurke took one each for the naval crew.

Free Church B could not do the same. They went down 7-3 to the RNA C side, Emma Churchley holding onto two for Church, Cherry Matthews one. Andy Davies, Graham Heath and Daryl Burgess took three, two, one respectively for the navy, Heath and Davies also taking the doubles. Marconi A also had a good result against a naval squad. Nuri Gundezi and Gordon Tucker took trebles, Roy Joiner a brace and Gundezi and Joiner the doubles to give Marconi the 9-1 victory over RNA B, for whom Duncan Hall salvaged the naval pride with a single.

RNA A also lost out. Previously second in the division they went down 7-3 to third placed St. Georges B - and the two teams swap positions. Tony Thomas took two and Ken Southwell one for the naval A's, Rob Bennett, Rob Warnes and Alf Chapman all kept braces for the Saints and Warnes and Chapman the doubles as well.

Eathorpe A edged to their third victory this season (and ever in this division) by squeezing past Free Church C 6-4. Matthew Cooper and his father Colin ensured Thorpe had the chance of success by winning two each and the doubles and Chris Atkins chipped in with a single to secure the win.

Blessed George Napier B keep in front of Division 3 by defeating Myton A 9-1. Brothers Michael and Daniel Rowan won their singles and doubles and mother Janice Rowan took two. Paul Deavall kept the only match for Myton.

Marconi B, however, have been piling on the points to move into first place, though others have matches in hand. First Stan Render, Geoff Taylor and Terry O'Neill defeated two-man Standard Photographic A 10-0. Then the same threesome for Marconi B met RNA E and emerged 7-3 in front of the navy. Geoff Taylor took his singles and the doubles with Stan Render, who gained a brace and Terry O'Neill contributed a single. Seasoned campaigners for the navy, Wilf Harris and Jim Thomas held onto one single each and the doubles together in reply.

County Council C picked up yet another win, 6-4 against AP Sports C. Tony Ford was unstoppable for Council in singles and the doubles with Pat Woolvin, who took one single and another by default when the AP player retired injured. Ros Freeman held onto two for AP, Charlotte Freeman and Carol Meredith one each.

FISSC A are still in the hunt for honours. The Farmers trio of George Mudie, John Hunt and Brian Marston rolled over Standard Photographic A 10-0 despite a good effort by Photographic.

Nuneaton Bucks saw off County Council B in Division 1 8-2 led by a confident treble from Dave Grundy and two each and the doubles from Sohail Caratella and Arun Jogi. Reg Warnes and Derek Harwood held one each for Council.

Wellesbourne inflicted a predictable defeat on Blessed George Napier A. Andy Cockerill won his three, as did Pete Dunnett and together they took the doubles for the 7-3 result. Paul Rowan, Sam Clarke and Malcolm Macfarlane all kept one for BGN.

St. Georges A squeezed in front of Colebridge A 6-4 with two each for Martyn Todd and Mike Bishop, one from Earl Sweeney and the crucial doubles won in the fifth by Todd and Sweeney. Waseem Shahzad kept his three for Colebridge and Graham Hoskin one.

In Division A front runners Free Church E swamped Eathorpe C 5-0, Keith Knott and Paul Nason the Church leaders in control. St. Georges C played two matches and finished with the same 3-2 score-line. First Saints went down 3-2 to Eathorpe C, Richard Freeman and Eric Smith picking up one each and the doubles for 'Thorpe, Richard Grover his two for Saints. Then Saints played Free Church F. Richard Grover, still on 100% won his two and was lucky to win the doubles with his dad Derek 11/9, 12/10, 8/11, 9/11, 13/11 to give them the match 3-2. Jonathan Mason and David Whittaker held onto one each for Church.

In Division B Free Church H keep out in front with a 5-0 eclipse of Eathorpe E by Adam Cooper and Chris Blowey in singles and Ben McNally and Adam Cooper in the doubles. Free Church I did nearly as well. They saw off St. Georges D 4-1 led by Luke Hobbins unbeaten in singles and the doubles with his partner Joseph Cox who added a single. Ryan Fenwick kept one point to console Saints D. In an Eathorpe local derby the D's ousted the F's 4-1. Sophie Cooper dominated to take both her singles, Matthew Jackson one and they combined in the doubles to give Eathorpe D the match. Ian Western held one in reply for the F's.

New year honours

Three young players from the Leamington League found success at the Blessed George Napier tournament held on the first Saturday of the new year in Cubbington. Richard Grover from St Georges C won the Juniors. Phil Morby from St. Georges D showed his improvement in this his first season by taking the runner-up spot in the Under 15 consolation. Lawrie Western from Eathorpe and also in his first season took the runner-up place in the under 12 consolation.

Sad news

This week we have had the sad news that Arthur Clarke has died. Arthur was a very popular and well respected player who will be much missed by his friends at County Council (where he was a stalwart in the B side which won promotion to Division 1 last season) and throughout the league.

We understand that Arthur's funeral is next Monday, 20th January at 3.30pm at Oakley Wood, Leamington Spa. Donations in Arthur's memory to Cancer Relief UK can be sent via the family.